

Page 74, replace second full paragraph bridging pages 74-76, as follows:

--The regulatory mechanism of C5L2 expression in granulocytes is considered to be as follows. The leukocytes in human peripheral blood are composed of 25 to 33 % of lymphocytes, 3 to 7 % of monocytes, 55 to 60 % of neutrophils, 1 to 3 % of eosinophils and 0 to 0.7 % of basophils (see "Seikagaku Jiten (Dictionary of Biochemistry)" published by TOKYO KAGAKU DOZIN CO., LTD., Japan). As apparent from the above-mentioned composition of the leukocytes in human peripheral blood, neutrophils account for 90 % or more of the granulocyte fraction (composed of neutrophils, eosinophils and basophils). Neutrophils participate in the non-specific immune system and they exclude pathogens (mainly bacteria) from the living body by performing various functions (such as adhesion, chemotaxis, phagocytosis and bactericide). A mature neutrophil stays in human peripheral blood for 10 to 16 hours and its life is 2 to 3 days. Mature neutrophils are either those neutrophils circulating in the blood or those neutrophils which are in a form adhering to vascular endothelium (i.e., vascular endothelial cells covering the inside wall of a blood vessel). Under normal conditions, the number of mature neutrophils circulating in the blood and the number of mature neutrophils in a form adhering to

vascular endothelium are approximately the same. The mature neutrophils which have been in a form adhering to vascular endothelium will then emigrate into tissues, and such neutrophils are lost as they go out of the tissues and into a space outside the tissues (such as the oral cavity, a gastrointestinal lumen and the internal space of a pulmonary alveolus) or, in the case of some tissues (such as liver, spleen, hypodermal tissue and the like), the neutrophils undergo apoptosis and are then phagocytosed by macrophages. From these facts, it is considered that the average life of mature neutrophils which emigrate into tissues is 1 to 4 days. A mature neutrophil which has emigrated into a tissue does not return to the blood. With respect to the mature neutrophils which migrate to a site of inflammation, the apoptosis of these neutrophils is regulated so that the life of these neutrophils is prolonged. On the other hand, the life of the mature neutrophils which have phagocytosed bacteria is shortened. When a mature neutrophil undergoes apoptosis, its various functions (such as chemotaxis, phagocytosis, morphological change, adhesion, degranulation and production of active oxygen) are lowered (Haslett, C. et al., Chest, 99 (Suppl. 3): 6S, 1991; and Whyte, M.K. et al., J. Immunol., 150, 5124-5134, 1993). Such an onset of neutrophil apoptosis is considered to be caused by a mechanism working for preventing the occurrence of disorders

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caused by a prolonged activation of neutrophils, which is harmful for the living body.--

Page 107, replace first full paragraph as follows:

-- CHO cells (ATCC number: CCL-61, available from Dainippon Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Japan) were transformed with pcDNAC5L2 constructed in Example 4. The CHO cells were cultured at 37 °C in an atmosphere containing 5 % of carbon dioxide using F-12 nutrient mixture (Ham's F-12, catalog number: 11765-047, manufactured and sold under the brand of GIBCO BRL™, U.S.A.) containing 10 % FBS (catalog number: 10099-141, manufactured and sold under the brand of GIBCO BRL™, U.S.A.) and 1 % (vol/vol) of Penicillin-Streptomycin. The transformation was conducted by the calcium phosphate co-precipitation method using Calcium Phosphate Transfection Kit in accordance with the protocol attached thereto. DNA was used in an amount of 5 µg per plate (diameter: 35 mm).

Page 108, replace paragraph beginning at line 24 and bridging pages 108 and 109 as follows:

--A 96-well microplate (catalog number: FE-2300-02, manufactured and sold by Funakoshi Co., Ltd., Japan) and a frame filter (pore size: 8 µm) (catalog number: FE-2340-08,